

The Library Assistant:

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EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Thirty-first Session will be held on **October 14th** at the **Chelsea Polytechnic**, next to the Public Library, Manresa Road, Kings Road, Chelsea. Manresa Road is near to Chelsea Town Hall, to South Kensington and Sloane Square stations, and to Bus routes Nos. 39 and 49. Buses Nos. 11, 19c and 22 stop at the end of the street.

The day's arrangements will be as under:—

3.30 p.m. Assemble at Chelsea Public Library (Children's entrance.)

4 p.m. Visit Chelsea Old Church and other interesting places in and near Cheyne Walk.

5.30 p.m. Tea will be obtainable at the Polytechnic for a reasonable charge. Members desiring to use this facility are asked to write by October 12th, to Mr. R. Wright, Public Library, Earlsfield, S.W.18.

7.30 p.m. The Inaugural Address, entitled: "The Judging of Books" will be delivered in the Chelsea Polytechnic by **Mr. H. M. Tomlinson**, the well-known author and literary editor of *The Weekly Westminster*.

The Chair will be occupied by Mr. J. H. Quinn, Librarian, Chelsea Public Libraries, to whom the Association is indebted for making the arrangements. A visit to the Chelsea Public Library will be included in the day's programme.

The November Meeting will be held on Wednesday, the 18th November, at the Bethnal Green Public Library. Mr. F. S. Smith of the Library staff will read a paper on "Criticism."

The Next Meeting of the Council will be held at Chelsea Public Library on Wednesday, 14th October, at 6 p.m.

The October Dance will be held on the third Wednesday in the month (October 21st), in the Large Hall at the Central Library, 68, Holloway Road, Islington. This Dance has been made possible by Mr. Harris, the Chief Librarian, who very kindly asked the Islington Library Committee to grant the Association the use of the Hall. Members of this Association are so frequently the recipients of hospitality that they need to beware of taking things too much as a matter of course. It is to be hoped, therefore, that as many members as possible (especially those living north of the Thames), will show their gratitude on this occasion by helping to make the Dance a success. Tickets may be obtained from the following, price, 2s. 6d. inclusive :

Mr. Cooper, Battersea.

Mr. Parker, Hackney.

Mr. Cross, Croydon.

Miss Rees, Fulham.

Mr. Jones, Stepney.

Mr. Wright, Earlsfield.

Mr. O'Leary, Bethnal Green.

The last Dance resulted in a financial loss of over £2, but it was so great a success socially that the Council have this year decided to "plunge" to the extent of two Dances. The first is as announced above. The second will be held at Battersea Town Hall, on Wednesday, February 17th, 1926.

Work of the Council.—Beyond the usual routine work little of general interest happened in the course of the Council's deliberations when it met at the National Library for the Blind, on September 9th. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. R. F. Bullen was unanimously voted to the chair. From their respective reports it appeared that the Press and Publications Committee were working with accustomed smoothness and efficiency ; that the Finance Committee were deep in the throes of the annual estimates which will appear on the Council's agenda next month, and that the Education Committee were rather like visitors to a certain corner of the grounds of Hampton Court. It seemed that this Committee's chairman was absent on holiday ; that the member who had charge of the arrangements for the Inaugural Meeting of the forthcoming session was also away on holiday ; that a severe breakdown had caused the absence and retirement of Mr. R. D. H. Smith, and that it was fortunate that the Association's Hon. Secretary was on the spot ready to step into the rather wide breach thus caused. Those who were privileged to hear Mr. Smith's brilliant paper at our recent Richmond meeting will readily understand how galling it must be for a man of his disposition to have to go slow on doctor's orders. We wish Mr. Smith a speedy and complete recovery, until which time Miss E. M. Exley has kindly agreed to deputise.

In consequence of Miss Lucas's resignation from the position of Hon. Librarian, the Council was pleased to accept the offer of Miss S. Toms to undertake the work of this office.

Library Association Examinations.—All entries for the examinations to be held in December must reach the Library Association's office before the end of October.

Correspondence Classes will be held as usual from October to May. Application must be made to the Hon. Secretary, Library Association, Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, in October. The following conductors have consented to act:—

Section 1. Literary History: Miss M. Lane, M.A.
(Special Period, 1840-1870).

Section 2. Bibliography: A. J. K. Esdaile, M.A.; Book Selection: J. E. Walker.

Section 3. Classification: H. A. Sharp.

Section 4. Cataloguing: F. Dallimore.

Section 5. Organization: C. R. Sanderson.

Section 6. Routine: J. Ross.

Bradford.—We note from the *Bradford Daily Telegraph*, that a proposal is on foot to abolish the Central Lending Library, so far as the issue of fiction is concerned. Why the proposal should stop at that we fail to understand. It appears to us that a point will be reached in every library system where the proper organisation of branch or district libraries must result in the Central Lending Library being no longer necessary. The need for an administration building will inevitably arise as the system extends, and therefore, we think that it is the natural outcome for the central lending library to die out, and an administration department arise in its place. We wonder whether the number of extensions of central libraries one hears of are really necessary, or whether the problems that are said to exist could not be solved by closer attention to branch and district needs. There does not appear to us to be any irrefutable reasons in favour of a large central lending library. What does strike us as more desirable, is a series of district libraries spread over a borough. In the days of long ago a single library in a town was all that could be afforded, or was required, but now that the times have changed, is it not time for us to reconsider our views and decide in favour of a network of efficient district libraries, and the abandonment of the central lending library idea?

Leeds.—An inquiry has been held into the application of the Leeds Corporation for sanction to borrow £9,400 for the erection of branch libraries. Assistance has been promised by the Carnegie Trustees, on the understanding that work is commenced on all sites by Christmas.

Cornwall.—The following are selections from the series of resolutions by the Cornwall Rural Library Sub-Committee which were reproduced in the *School Government Chronicle*. We commend them to our members in the hope that profit and pleasure may result:—

“That Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch should be written to by the Librarian, asking if he would return the Preliminary List of books

which had been submitted by the Librarian, so that it might be considered by the Chairman according to previous resolution.

"After this List has been approved by Sir Arthur and the Chairman, and any extended list which might still be submitted by the Librarian, the Committee agreed that arrangements could at once be made for the purchase.

"It was suggested that possibly it would be found advisable for the Librarian to visit London and Nottingham with a view to making purchases.

"It was agreed that certain discretionary powers should be given to the Librarian in consultation with the Chairman.

"In pursuance of its resolution of 20th April, recommending that the Rural Library Scheme should, for its efficient working, be placed under the direction of the Education Secretary, the Subcommittee further resolved to recommend:—

"That Mr. Pascoe be asked to undertake the direction, as from the 18th June, 1925, to plan out and establish (in conjunction with the Librarian) a Rural Library Service for Cornwall under this Subcommittee; and that he be offered for this work a payment (from the Rural Library Rate) of £100 for a year; this payment to be renewable on a proportionate scale for such further time as may be necessary to set the system in active and satisfactory operation."

The last resolution is the gem of the collection. To be viewed in its proper perspective it should, metaphorically, be stood on its head. We have visions of such a topsy-turvy state of affairs as a librarian being given an additional salary of a £100 for such time as he is assisting the Director of Education in drawing up the curricula of the local schools, etc., etc.

A. A. L. Series.—The stock in hand is being rapidly depleted by frequent sales. All those who wish to obtain copies of the pamphlets in print should order them as indicated on p. 4 of the cover.

Appointments.—All Assistants are requested to send to the Hon. Editor for publication, particulars of appointments and changes affecting them.

The Distribution of the Journal is in the hands of Mr. J. L. Gilliam, Central Library, Croydon, to whom all communications concerning distribution should be sent.

Publication of the Journal.—We go to Press on the 20th of the month. All matter for inclusion in the next number should be in our hands by the 18th.

Status.—A short time ago was published a professional work which has recently been distributed to non-purchasers "on approval for two days." Accompanying the circular is a bill for the published price of the book, plus the cost of postage!

The author of this work is entitled to use after his name the only letters that matter in our profession, and should surely have realised

that librarians requiring copies of his compilation would have ordered them in the usual way.

We are aware that *pedlars* frequently leave packets containing their wares at houses, and call later for their return or the purchase price. Perhaps the gentleman concerned here is endeavouring to acquire a position as "professional pedlar." At all events, this "stunt" seems to jar upon our idea of professional etiquette, and we wonder whether many copies will be returned to him, only after he has forwarded postage!

H. A. E.

School of Librarianship.—A course of seven Public Lectures on "The Use of Libraries," will be given at University College, on Wednesdays, at 5.30 p.m.

October 14th, "The Use of Libraries," Introductory Lecture, by the Director, Mr. E. A. Baker, M.A., D.Litt.; October 28th, "The Use of Reference Books," by Dr. Baker; November 11th, "Methods of Reading," by Dr. Baker; November 25th, "The British Museum for Research Purposes," by Mr. G. F. Barwick, B.A.; January 20th, "Book Selection for Children," by Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers; February 3rd, "The London School of Economics Library: Its Work and Methods," by Mr. B. M. Headicar; February 17th, "English Embroidered Bindings," by Major Cyril Davenport, V.D., F.S.A. (Lantern Illustrations). The Lectures are open to the Public without fee or ticket.

Lord Eustace Percy, President of the Board of Education, will speak upon Libraries and Education at the Inaugural Meeting of the new Session of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association. The meeting will be held in the Draper's Hall, Throgmorton Street, on Tuesday, October 27th, at 8 p.m. The President of the Library Association (Principal Grant Robertson, of Birmingham University) will take the Chair.

Obituary.—Miss E. Brain, one of the Assistants at the Coventry Libraries, was taken seriously ill in July, 1924, and after a long illness, passed away on September 2nd, in her 21st year. She was an enthusiast in all that concerned library work, was a member of the A. A. L., and, during her service at Coventry of four years, was successful in passing the sectional examinations for Cataloguing, Library Organization, and Library Administration. At the time of her illness she was acting as Children's Librarian, and the loss is deeply regretted not only by the staff, but by the hosts of readers. The funeral took place at the Coventry Cemetery on September 7th, at which several members of the Libraries' staff were present.

Certificates and Financial Acknowledgment.—The following extract is from the Library Association Record. Such happenings as these call for more strenuous efforts on the part of all librarians and assistants. As Mr. Roberts indicated to us at Brighton, lack of recognition is partly due to our own failure to make ourselves known and heard.

"On the suggestion of a member of the Lambeth Public Libraries staff, application was made to the Borough Council to give financial acknowledgment in respect of Certificates of the Association in like manner, as they do to those of other examining bodies.

"The reply was that, while the same value was not attached to the passing of the examinations of the Library Association as to those of other professional examinations, the Borough Council would be prepared to take into consideration, in connection with salary, the case of any assistant who succeeded in obtaining the Library Association Diploma. The Committee can but regret this attitude of comparative indifference on the part of the authority concerned to the Association's educational work and the lack of recognition of the interim certificates. This places members of the Libraries Staff, in an unfair position as compared with the staffs of other departments of the service."

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE : BIRMINGHAM, 1925.

Another Conference has come and gone, and a good many of those who attended the 48th Annual Conference held in Birmingham from September 14th to 19th, are no doubt by now reflecting upon the events of those four crowded days and endeavouring to sort out the eternal from the temporary, the real from the false, and the permanent from the transitory. As an example of the value of Conferences in bringing together the like-minded, and in piling up, *en masse*, an identity of interests and hopes, this year's gathering was an undoubted success; a satisfactory clearing house for the interchange of ideas and the exchange of experiences. Those little general discussions in groups of threes and fours, at all sorts of odd moments—in the hotel lounges, in the smoke room at the Conference Hall, or during the afternoon trips and at the evening receptions—often prove from the purely individual point of view of far more value and interest than many of the papers read at the morning sessions. They act as a tonic and like the annual seaside holiday, send all back strengthened and encouraged for another year's ploughing, sowing and reaping the wide field of librarianship. To the relatively isolated provincial librarian, and to his committeeman, this annual association with his fellow librarian (and others interested in the profession), must be a most stimulating experience. But when one has finished here with those advantages to the individual which are common to all Conferences, an impression is left vividly on the mind that this Birmingham Conference represented a lost opportunity. Here assembled the most representative collection of delegates, to the unusually large number of 450, from all parts of England, Scotland and Wales. The place of meeting was one of the largest cities in the country, famed in the annals of librarianship, central and accessible, the birth-place of many movements of national importance. A general feeling of optimism for the future of the profession everywhere prevalent, a spirit of progress and a desire for its achievement patently abroad; all around an impression of "something about to happen"; the

Departmental Committee on Public Libraries still at work and deep wonderings as to its final recommendations and results. The stage seemed perfectly set; the threads all drawn together—now for the grand event.

Surely the programme of the morning sessions would disclose addresses for consideration on matters of a broad national interest and policy; papers on the functions, duties, opportunities of the Public Library in the part to be played in the changing order of our social structure, and in the evolution of a new order of society. But no! the papers and addresses for the most part consisted of the usual consideration of matters of technique; touching the frills and fringes of librarianship. All very interesting in their way, and of value to the librarian—but to the librarian only. There was one exception, and that was the Address of the President. By some strange and happy gift of divination he had marvellously anticipated the feelings and aspirations of most of those who had the great privilege of listening to one of the finest Presidential Addresses ever delivered to the Library Association.

The first ceremony of importance, after the usual "swearing in," was the customary Reception by the Chairman (Councillor W. B. Featherstone, J.P., M.D.), and members of the Local Reception Committee at the Central Public Library, Ratcliff Place. Here the mixing up process began, and the flow of the past year's experiences, etc., let loose. The Library is a handsome and roomy place, sufficiently well known to require no further description. The Shakespeare Collection is unique, and that alone is worth a long distance visit to see and enjoy. An excellently arranged programme of vocal music provided the evening's entertainment and all departed with pleasant anticipations of more good things to come from the generous-minded and open-handed hosts. The opening session was held in the Council Chamber of the Council House. The Deputy Mayor (in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Mayor), extended a warm and sincere welcome to the gathering, and read a letter from the Lord Mayor, in which similar sentiments were expressed. Unfortunately, the retiring President, Professor Rait, could not attend to hand over his office to the incoming President. However, he sent a charming letter, in which he regretted his absence, and expressed his kindly feelings towards the Association. A very hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded Professor Rait for the valuable services he had rendered during his year of office. These thanks were graciously moved and seconded by Mr. John Minto, M.A., of Edinburgh, and Mr. S. A. Pitt, of Glasgow. The new President, Professor C. Grant Robertson, C.V.O., M.A., LL.D., Principal of the University of Birmingham, then took the Chair, and delivered his Presidential Address: "Libraries and Citizenship." It was an inspiration from beginning to end, and what is more, delivered with so much charm of manner and facility of

expression, that it could not but fail to make a lasting and deep impression on those who heard it. No more need be said in view of the fact that the Council of the Library Association has decided to reprint the Address, and offer same for sale, at cost price. Every member of the profession, whatever his position, owes it as a duty to the profession and as a privilege and pleasure to himself, to obtain a copy, as soon as possible, and read it—not once, not twice, but several times. Moreover, every Chief Librarian should immediately purchase sufficient copies for every member of his Committee, if not of his Council. The subject matter of this Address could, by the way, provide enough material for consideration and discussion, to fill the programme of the next two Conferences, at least.

Mr. Arthur F. Ridley, Librarian, British Non-ferrous Metals Research Association and Honorary Secretary, Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, read a paper on "Special Libraries and Information Bureaux." A very valuable paper, no doubt, but unfortunately delivered in a rather unattractive manner, which spoilt somewhat the pleasure of those listening to him. However, when his remarks appear in printed form, a careful perusal will be well rewarded. The afternoon was devoted to a visit to Bournville Model Village, and the works of Messrs. Cadbury, Ltd. The visitors on arrival, were first entertained to a Swimming Display by a class of boys from the works. After this, a special fleet of char-a-bancs ran parties round the Model Village, followed by a careful and detailed inspection of the Works. This inspection permitted visitors thoroughly and conscientiously to examine the various processes in the manufacture and distribution of the world famous cocoa and chocolate. Each party numbering seven was under the charge of a specially-trained guide. The visit proved an education in the truest sense, and all were deeply impressed with this wonderful exhibition of British business organization and management and industrial efficiency. At the conclusion of the tour of inspection, tea was provided in a large marquee on the Men's Recreations Ground, whilst the Works Silver Band played sweet melodies. During tea, Mr. Bramley Cadbury, one of the members of the firm, addressed a few words to his guests, and Messrs. G. T. Shaw, M.A., of Liverpool and W. Powell, of Birmingham, suitably replied. But the amazing hospitality of Messrs. Cadbury was not yet exhausted, for as each member of the party left the grounds, he was presented with a souvenir in the shape of a half-pound box of the firm's famous King George chocolates. Most of those who had the privilege and pleasure of that afternoon's experience were so charmed with the visit that they all (including even, it is whispered, a prominent member of the Council) decided there and then to sign the pledge and in defiance of G. K. Chesterton, drink only, in future, Bournville cocoa. The evening was given over to the Reception by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor at the Council

House and Art Gallery. This afforded all the opportunity of inspecting and enjoying this excellent Art Gallery (remarkable for its unique collection of the works of Burne-Jones) at ease and in leisure.

The morning of Wednesday was occupied with two papers. Professor F. E. Sandbach, M.A., Ph.D., of the Birmingham University, read a very entertaining paper on "Inter-Library Loaning," and although most of his information dealt with the efforts and results of Universities Libraries, the facts he gave were sufficiently interesting and important, and new to all members of the profession to be worth serious consideration for possible future developments. Mr. H. E. Wood, M.A., Director of Studies, Woodbroke College, interpolated a refreshing paper on "William Tyndale's Place in English Literature" —1925 is the quater-centenary of the publication of Tyndale's translation of the New Testament. It was, indeed, as a cool breeze on a hot summer's day, thus to stray awhile in the pleasant pastures of literature. As the next paper down for reading: "Organization of Reference Libraries," had apparently missed the last boat from India, the remaining half-hour was given to a discussion of the paper Mr. Ridley had read the previous day. The discussion, which was well sustained, concerned itself, however, not with the subject-matter of the paper, but with the information that the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux had been formed as an independent body outside the Library Association, and all the speakers earnestly pleaded for a reconsideration of this action, with a view to an association within the four walls of the Library Association.

On Wednesday afternoon a visit was made to the many-spired city of Coventry. *En route* the char-a-bancs allowed a brief survey of the Earlsdon Branch Library. On reaching Coventry the party was taken first to a group of buildings known locally as Bablake, and consisting of St. John's Church, founded in 1344; Bablake Hospital founded by Thomas Wheatley, 1560, and Bond's Hospital, founded by Thomas Bond, in 1506. A charming group of old world buildings with a quiet restful air. Here Miss Dormer Harris, Coventry's historian, and Miss Angela Brazil (the well-known writer of girls' books), met the party, and gave their valuable and appreciated services in guiding the visitors around the historic parts of the city. St. Mary's Hall, the ancient guild-hall, built in the latter half of the 14th century by the Trinity Guild, was the next place of interest, and here tea was provided. Visits were also made to the beautiful Cathedral, with its chief glory, the spire, and, of course, to the Public Library of great reputation, both for the excellence of its work and its part in providing the two Scottish capitals with their English librarians. A very crowded, but memorable afternoon's outing.

In the evening the Reception by the Council and Senate of the University of Birmingham, was held at the University, Edgbaston. The whole of the large block of buildings was thrown open, and

those present had the pleasure of wandering around in ease and comfort and with profit and pleasure. A very stately and dignified function.

Thursday's proceedings opened with a very breezy, witty and provocative paper on "Libraries from a Reader's point of view," read by the Rev. A. B. Bateman. A good deal of what he said was said with his tongue in his cheek, and many wondered whether he had more than a name similarity with the well-known cartoonist. However, it served his purpose and produced the desired result. Mr. C. R. Sanderson, of the National Liberal Club, followed with a talk on the "Value of Official and Parliamentary Publications"; a very excellent discourse, full of useful information, and having some value on the work of the Special Committee of the Library Association on Government Publications. Members were provided beforehand with printed copies of this report, and were well able to judge for themselves of the extremely valuable work which this Committee has already done under the skilful and able Chairmanship of Mr. S. A. Pitt, and the energetic secretaryship of Mr. G. A. Stephen. This last-named gentleman was granted five minutes in which to enlarge upon this printed report. This he did with added credit to the Committee in general and to himself in particular. After lunch motor char-a-bancs conveyed parties to Oscott College and Aston Hall, where an inspection was made of the College Buildings, with its fine Library and Museum. Aston Hall, a delightful Jacobean mansion standing in a park of the same name, is within two miles of the centre of the city, and now used as a Museum. The evening was given over to the Annual Dinner. Some 250 to 300 were present, including most of our hosts. This function is attended primarily as a duty, with only a faint hope of any pleasure. However, most of the speeches proved to be witty, entertaining, or stimulating, and one departed with a feeling of an evening not lost. The Annual Business Meeting passed off in a very dull and listless fashion. No doubt the effects of the previous evening had not worn off, for all seemed too weary and bored to pump up any interest, let alone excitement, in the proceedings. Generally, the Annual Business Meeting is the one occasion when every one with a grievance (and that means nearly *every* member of the Library Association, judging by private utterances), seizes the opportunity to cackle freely and at length. Perhaps too, the shades of Shakespeare induced a brotherly and pacific spirit. The concluding proceedings consisted of a long char-a-banc excursion to Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon. At Warwick visits were made to the beautiful old church with its interesting memorial to Fulke Greville (of pious memory to all those who have studied for Section I.), to the mediaeval Leicester Hospital, and to the richly historic Warwick Castle. A short break for lunch and off again to Stratford-on-Avon, for fascinating but hurried visits to its many memorials. The Theatre was the first object of interest, where a civic welcome greeted the visitors.

Thence a visit to the Church where rest the remains of the Immortal Bard, his wife and children. The Birthplace and Ann Hathaway's Cottage naturally received attention. It was all too hurried and casual to be of any real value, but to those who had never before visited this shrine of international fame, and everlasting glory, an opportunity presented itself of making a firm resolution to come again, under more leisurely and comfortable conditions.

Friday night saw the beginning of the end. Many took this chance of a free evening to spend the time at the Repertory Theatre where Sir Barry Jackson is just managing to keep alight the little spark of culture in this great industrial centre of material interests.

The papers this year were well arranged. There was no overcrowding, no mental indigestion. After each paper ample time was allowed for discussion, and the ensuing debates were generally of a high and creditable level. Of course, in one or two instances, impetuous members of the profession, with that all too common weakness, *cacoethes loquendi*, rushed on to the platform and proved too painfully the wisdom of the German proverb, "Silence is golden."

To the good folk of Birmingham the best and grateful thanks of all are due. The reception throughout was kind and courteous, the hospitality generous, but unobtrusive, the welcome warm and sincere. Not only, upon the shoulders of Mr. Walter Powell, and his able lieutenant, Mr. H. M. Cashmore, fell the many trying and exacting duties connected with the arrangement of the Conference, but to them also fell the invidious task of providing nearly all the addresses. It is sufficient to add that of the six addresses delivered in all, four were contributed by the Birmingham folk. Further, with the one slight exception, every paper was delivered with such distinction and clearness that 50 per cent. was added to the enjoyment of the listeners. A contemporary in a recent article practically placed to Mr. Powell's credit side of librarianship, a fine figure and a big voice—purely physical qualifications for which, one supposes, he is not altogether responsible. True, Mr. Powell's fine figure was always prominent, but his big voice (if he *does* possess one) was not heard. That was quite unnecessary. Such was the perfection and efficiency of his arrangements that from start to finish, things glided along with the smoothness of a well-oiled and controlled machine. Never any confusion, never any doubt. The whole Conference was a tribute to his genius for organization—and this is not a purely physical qualification. And in Mr. Cashmore he found his ideal support. Even the weather responded to their efforts, and all enjoyed the pleasantest week for many months. Much will happen in the near future as a result of this year's gathering at Birmingham—much not only in the Association, but in the profession generally. If one may be bold enough to make a prophecy—we are on the eve of great events.

H. S.

ENQUIRIES.

By ESSEX.

Among the many practices which all approve but many neglect, is the recording of Reference Library enquiries. That is to say, the queries which take some considerable search to answer or those which, after our best endeavours, remain unanswered. Brief records of the former, giving the sources of information, are useful if the enquiry recurs, while the latter serve to remind us that after all, we are only human. Besides, which answers sometimes turn up afterwards, particularly when one is searching for something else.

How much time is to be spent on an enquiry before it is relegated to the "unanswered" file, is a question to be decided according to the merits of each case. There will probably be enquiries which elude the resources of the library, and which it is still desirable to answer. In these cases we could, perhaps, help each other. Small libraries in particular might get help from their larger neighbours. It is not suggested that the cross-word fiend should be indulged nor that enquiries should be circulated for the square root of 2. A good deal of discretion should be used to prevent enquiries becoming a nuisance. But still, there are doubtless genuine enquirers who are sent away owing to a library's limited resources, and who might be satisfied by, help from outside. The following is submitted as a legitimate example :

Eleu lora, etc. What is the meaning of this refrain to a song in the third canto of Scott's *Marmion*, and why the "etc"?

This was asked in *Notes and Queries* as long ago as 1859, but apparently without eliciting a reply. The query has recently been asked anew in a reference library, and arises in the course of serious study. (If any reader can help, the Editor will, no doubt, find room for a reply in the correspondence column).

A propos of reference work, is it not astonishing that many libraries do so little of it? Paradoxical as it may sound, reference libraries, either in the sense of buildings or books, are not essential to reference work; that is the "quick-reference" work of an enquiry desk. Many small libraries appear to think that because they cannot afford the D.N.B., the N.E.D., *et hoc genus omne*, that reference work is not for them. On the contrary, a great deal of useful work can be done with a comparatively spare equipment. What is wanted is a vertical file, a small collection of very carefully selected books, a good system of classification and indexing, and an assistant in charge who knows what the books contain. The latter is a very necessary condition. We have known an assistant who searched through all manner of guide-books for the market-day of a certain town, while a "Bradshaw" stood at his elbow; and another who spent a long time in the "office" hunting up a few books on Indo-China, while

the Statesman's Year-Book rested undisturbed on a shelf within arm's reach.

A great deal of useful material can be obtained at small cost except that of collecting it. Many of the inactive, who pin their faith to imposing sets of big books, might be surprised to know how much work some larger libraries do with this small material, and how much that material nourishes their statistics! An encouragement to this kind of work is the fact that the public appreciates it, and needs it. Else why do a number of weekly journals print columns of queries as to dates, authorship of books, quotations, best books on a subject, and what-not? And why do people spend postage, take the trouble to write, and then wait a week or two for a reply, when in many cases they could or should get their answers for nothing and at once, at the local library? Libraries surely should do this work, and *let the public know they are doing it.*

A PLEA FOR MODERN LITERATURE.

The stock of even the largest of public libraries is such a small selection of a selection of the books available, that it behoves us to choose very carefully that small residuum, weighing the value *to us* of each suggested volume.

The provision of modern literature in public libraries is now, I think, agreed upon. The question being not as to whether we should represent it at all, but as to how much we are justified in providing, bringing into consideration our whole stock.

The first point to be noted is the value that this literature has to us. The literature of our own age has a value to us which is out of all proportion to its importance as literature—it mirrors, or aims at mirroring, and at the same time re-acts upon, our own everyday life. It is because of this that it is of such importance, and therefore must be represented in the public library; if the library does not supply this need it will inevitably tend to fall behind the times and become a dry-as-dust repository.

The library, of course, can go to the other extreme, forgetting that he who in the enthusiasm "for the things which to-day has found, forgets the discoveries of all the years of yesterdays, will never see but a broken fragment of truth." My plea is for a judicious selection of the "moderns," with a remembrance that they have a greater value to us than many, nay, than all, the third, fourth, fifth, etc., rate authors of the past.

But what shall guide my selection will be asked. Well, there are two guides which we should aim to follow: the critics, and the general trend of public opinion.

The growth of scientific standards of criticism during the last half-century, and the fact that there are many men of first rate talent

writing criticism to-day, have led to ours being a good critical age, if not a creative one. We should be guided in a large measure by the opinions of these men—we are, whether we own it consciously, or not—the worst book selection being the selection of those which are pushed under our noses—remembering that it is not the librarian's function to be a critic, even if he were capable, but to select as he thinks suitable for his particular purpose and public from the books advocated by the specialist.

The other guide in our book-buying should be public opinion. "Surely not," I can hear my readers say. "Public opinion has no taste." But it must not be forgotten that the public library is supported by the public, and is supposed to cater for them. If it does not supply the desires of its supporters, surely it is not fulfilling its function—certainly it is not fulfilling its function *in their eyes*, and it must not be forgotten that if it does not supply its needs, the public will leave it—and then, *ipso facto*, it will be unable to fulfil its functions at all.

If we follow these, in so far as our purse will allow, I do not think we will go amiss. The worst which would happen is that we would buy the Martin Tupper and "Epic of Hades," of our age, and do we not already buy, without any proper consideration, the Tarzan novels?

E. R. McC.

CATALOGUING NOTES.

The widespread adoption of the Open-Access system in English libraries during the present century has brought in its train many modifications in library administration. There are few branches of the daily routine which has not been altered and adapted to meet the new conditions. It might be an interesting exercise to run through the various processes and divisions of our work, and note the differences that have resulted from a change of system. Such an examination would, we believe, reveal a very large number of economies and improvements, which, though consisting largely of details, yet taken in bulk, represent a weighty advantage which should be set down to the credit of Open-Access.

The present notes, however, are not concerned with such a general survey, but with a few of the changes which the new conditions make necessary or possible in cataloguing practice. They will, perhaps, suggest what is meant in the foregoing remarks, and serve as an example of what might emerge from a consideration of other branches of work. The most noticeable effect of Open-Access on catalogue production is the practical abandonment of printed catalogues.

A list of additions in a bi-monthly or quarterly magazine seems to be the limit of a library's general cataloguing put into print nowadays. Whether this recent abstention is altogether an advantage may be doubted. In the writer's opinion, many libraries might well use

print more than they do. However this may be, there is no doubt of the great economy and advantage incident to the release from the necessity of printing *complete* catalogues.

The use of the card or sheaf form of catalogue gives the compiler more elbow room, so to speak. He no longer has to keep one eye on the printer's rule, nor puzzle his ingenuity in a Procrustean effort to fit all titles into one line of type. Accordingly, his entries are easier to write and more useful when written. The number and complexity of the older cataloguing codes are largely traceable to the need for economy of space. Entries had always to be spared when a reference would do. Now, however, a reference takes up a card just as an entry does, and consequently the entry is duplicated and the reference—a make-shift at the best of times—tends to disappear. This makes for much greater economy in compilation, as it saves the cataloguer's time. For the old-time dictionary catalogue each book involved two, three, or more entries, all to be written by the cataloguer, something after this style:

Bullen (Frank T.). The Cruise of the "Cachalot":
round the world after sperm whales. 1898. *illus.*
map 689.2

Whales & Whaling.

Bullen (F. T.). The Cruise of the "Cachalot": round
the world after sperm whales. 1898. *illus. map* ... 689.2

Voyages & Travel.

Bullen (F. T.). The Cruise of the "Cachalot":
round the world after sperm whales. 1898. *illus.*
map 689.2

"Cachalot," Cruise of the. By F. T. Bullen.

For the card form the cataloguer need write only one slip, marking on it the headings for the additional cards required.

Whales & Whaling.

Voyages & Travel.

"Cachalot." Bullen (Frank T.). The Cruise of the
"Cachalot": round the world after sperm whales.
1898. *illus. map* 689.2

Slips so marked can then be passed on to a typist or copyist, who will produce the required cards and return them to the cataloguer for checking. It may be doubted whether, full advantage is taken of this means of abridging the labour of the senior staff. We know libraries where a great deal of routine copying work is still done by the (comparatively) highly paid skilled man, instead of being passed on to juniors.

It has often been pointed out that one of the greatest benefits accruing from the use of card or sheaf forms is that work done is done once and for all. That is, the catalogue is permanent. In these days when annotative work is general, this is a very great benefit indeed.

This quality of permanency, however, requires certain little precautions, which are not always taken. If the catalogue is to remain a complete and up-to-date guide, control of the entries is essential. By this we mean that the cataloguer must have the means of knowing how the removal of any one entry will affect all the other entries in the catalogue. The first method of keeping track of entries is by the usual practice of "tracings." That is the recording on the back (or elsewhere), of the main-entry card the headings of all other cards made for the same book. For example, the tracings for Bullen's book just mentioned, would appear on the author card as :

Voyages and Travel—Whales—"Cachalot."

Should the book be withdrawn the cards so noted would be taken out, and so far we are sure that no misleading entries are left in the catalogue. This is the end of the matter if the catalogue is a classified one. The tracings in this case would consist of the classification number for added or analytical subject cards, thus :

"Cachalot," 910.4

(supposing this book is placed in 639.2).

But this is by no means the end in a dictionary catalogue, although unfortunately it is sometimes regarded as such. There will probably still be references to the subject cards under other headings, and they will remain to mislead unless they are deleted. Taking the example just quoted, it may be assumed that references will have been made as follows :

Fisheries. *See also* Whales and Whaling.

Mammals. *See also* Whales and Whaling.

Zoology, Marine. *See also* Whales and Whaling.

Travel. *See* Voyages and Travel.

If the subject-entry for our book is the only one under its heading, these references must be removed.

How then is one to know what references there are in the catalogue to any particular subject. The simplest way is to use one of the published lists of subject-headings, and mark therein the references to and from each subject as they are used in the catalogue. An alternative method is to compile a "home-made" list of headings which can conveniently be kept on cards, and which for the smallish library at any rate, is not a very onerous undertaking. The entries for the example quoted would appear in the list of subject-headings thus :

Whales & Whaling.

refer to :

etc.
etc.
etc.

refer from :

Fisheries
Mammals
Zoology, Marine.

With such a list of references to hand, it is a simple matter to ascertain what references are involved, and the unnecessary ones can be cancelled at once in list and in catalogue.

There is less to watch in a classified catalogue, but a point in its indexing deserves attention. The subject-index to a classified catalogue in book-form often refers to books arranged under numbers other than their own. For example, in one catalogue there is an index entry :

French drama. 842, 914.4.

The 914.4 is put in to call attention to a chapter on the French drama in Jerrold's "The Real France." This is doubtless done in a printed list to save space, and as the work, once printed, is in its final form, there is not much objection to the practice. This form of indexing, however, should be sedulously avoided in a card or sheaf catalogue. Entries should be made under the proper number in all cases, and the numbers given in the index should be the actual numbers of the subjects as they appear in the classification scheme in use. F. E. S.

SCOTTISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION : Council Notes:

The Council of the Scottish Library Association have recently urged upon the Scottish Education Authorities who have not yet established county libraries the desirability of training in librarianship as an essential qualification for candidates for appointments as county librarians. A protest has been addressed to the East Lothian Education Authority, who, after advertising the appointment of County Librarian at the wholly inadequate salary of £200 per annum, appointed to the position a clerk from their existing staff.

A resolution in favour of the establishment in this country of a system of co-operative card cataloguing, on the lines of that operated by the Library of Congress, has been adopted.

It has been decided not to arrange an Autumn meeting of the Association.

It has been found that the printing of the proceedings of the Association, as suggested at the Annual Meeting, is not practicable, but papers and addresses of special interest are to be published with the annual report.

On the recommendation of a special committee appointed to consider the question, the Council have agreed to institute an annual Scholarship of the value of £15, open to members of the Association. The President, Mr. Ryrie Orr, J.P., M.A., has generously offered to provide the first scholarship—an offer which the Council have gratefully accepted.

EDGAR H. PARSONS, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE DIVISIONS.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

EASTERN SECTION.

The Autumn Meeting of the Eastern Section will be held at the Brighton Public Library, on Wednesday, October 21st, at 6.15 p.m., and will take the form of a "Magazine Evening." It is hoped all Members who can do so will make an effort to attend.

GRACE L. DEAN, *Hon. Sec.*

Divisional Report.

The Committee has pleasure in submitting the Thirteenth Annual Report on the work of the Division.

Membership.—The total membership of the Division is 56, and consists of two Fellows, 47 Members, and seven Associate Members. This shows an increase of 11 on the last year's figures. During the year three members have resigned.

At the Annual Business Meeting held at Portsmouth on Wednesday, June 25th, 1924, the members unanimously adopted the Committee's proposals *re* reconstruction of the Division, and in consequence there were eight alterations in the formation of the new Committee. Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E., F.L.A., consented to become President for the ensuing year. Miss E. Gerard retired from the Chairmanship of the Division, and Mr. A. Webb, F.L.A., was elected to fill that office. The other officers, Miss G. Dean and Mr. A. Hamblyn, were re-elected as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively. The Committee consisting of four members from each section (of whom the Sectional Hon. Secretary was one) were elected as follows: Miss Dean (Worthing), Miss Gerard (Worthing), Miss Purdue (Hove), Mr. Male (Brighton), Miss Lea (Bournemouth), Mr. Cooper (Portsmouth), Mr. Pepper (Winchester), Mr. Richards (Portsmouth), together with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Hon. Treasurer.

During the year the name of Mr. H. S. Wilson, County Librarian for East Sussex, was added to the list of Vice-Presidents.

The only Divisional Meeting was a special one held in conjunction with the London Division of the A.A.L. at Brighton, on May 27th, 1925. Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E., F.L.A., Director of the Public Library, Museum and Art Galleries, Brighton, spoke on "Library Service of the Future," and his address on this important subject was much appreciated. Over fifty members and friends attended.

Miss Gerard has been elected as the Divisional Representative to serve on the General Council of the A.A.L. for the ensuing year, and Mr. Webb has been re-elected to the Council. Our congratulations are also offered to Mr. Richards, of the Portsmouth Staff, who has recently been appointed Sub-Librarian at Darlington.

Finance.—The yearly statement of receipts and expenditure is appended. The Hon. Treasurer reports a balance in hand of £4 18s. 9d.

(Signed) ARTHUR WEBB, *Chairman.*

GRACE L. DEAN, *Hon. Secretary.*

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for year ending 30th June, 1925.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand for June, 1924...	8	8	9	Proportion of Subscriptions transmitted to Headquarters ...	11	3	9
Subscriptions to date...	17	8	6	Hon. Secretary's and Hon. Treasurer's postage, petty cash expenses...	1	9	6
Bank Deposit interest for 1924 ...	0	1	1	Printing letter heading ...	1	1	0
				Western Section :			
				Grant... ..	2	0	0
				Quota of subscriptions	1	5	7
				Eastern Section :			
				Grant	2	0	0
				Quota of subscriptions	1	19	9
				Balance at Bank...	4	18	9
	£25	18	4		£25	18	4

Examined and found correct.

(Signed)

N. WEBB

D. A. HARMAN

} *Auditors.*

Eastern Section Report.

Membership.—The membership of this Section is 30, and consists of 26 members and four Associate Members.

Meetings.—The following meetings have been held, and on the whole have been well attended :

September 24th, 1924. Worthing Public Library.

Chairman at 3 p.m., Alderman Mrs. Chapman, J.P., Chairman of the Public Library and Museum Committee.

Chairman at 6.30 p.m., Miss Marian Frost, F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Worthing.

Captain R. Wright, M.C., F.L.A., addressed the two meetings on "Rural Libraries."

January 21st, 1925. Hove Public Library.

Chairman.—Mr. A. Webb, F.L.A., Brighton.

Paper read by Miss F. L. Talmey, of Hove, on "The Importance and Value of Children's Libraries."

April 3rd, 1925. Eastbourne Public Library. Magazine Evening.

Owing to an outbreak of influenza this meeting had to be abandoned.

Officers.—Mr. Arthur Webb (Brighton) was elected Chairman, and Miss G. Dean (Worthing), Hon. Secretary. Members elected to Committee were Miss E. Gerard (Worthing), Miss K. Hartnup (Eastbourne), Miss K. Mardall (Brighton), and Miss E. M. Purdue (Hove).

The Committee desires on behalf of the Section, to express its grateful thanks to the authorities of the Libraries where meetings have been held, to Miss Marian Frost, F.L.A., Mr. J. Lister, Alderman Mrs. Chapman, J.P., and Captain R. Wright, M.C., F.L.A., for kind assistance which has helped largely towards making the meetings enjoyable and successful. Thanks are also due to the Staffs of the Libraries visited for kind hospitality, and to all those who have done so much to ensure the success of the past year's work.

The Committee feels that a want of interest has been apparent amongst the members for some time past, and in conclusion appeal to every assistant in this Section, to take a more lively interest in the affairs of the Association, by attendance at meetings, and more especially by contributing papers and taking part in the discussion. The Committee is always willing and anxious to receive suggestions respecting the work of the Section, and if possible to act upon the same. If the Section is to continue in existence every member must rally to the assistance of those responsible, and do their personal share towards making the ensuing session a successful one.

(Signed) ARTHUR WEBB, *Chairman*.

GRACE L. DEAN, *Hon. Secretary*.

Balance Sheet for the year 1924-1925.

<i>Receipts.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.
From Treasurer ...	2	0	0	Hon. Secretary's and Hon. Treasurer's postage, and petty cash expenses ...	1	2	4
Rebate from Subscriptions ...	1	19	9	Travelling expenses ...	0	15	0
				Hire of Chairs ...	0	12	0
				Books for Prizes for Magazine Evening ...	0	7	6
				Balance in hand ..	1	2	11
	£3	19	9		£3	19	9

Western Section Report.

This report is submitted as the first account of an experiment to overcome the geographical position and travelling difficulties of members of the Association wishing to attend Meetings, and we have pleasure in reporting that this first year has been very successful.

Membership.—The membership of this Section is 26, and consists of two Fellows, 21 Members, and three Associate Members.

Officers.—Mr. J. Hutt has acted as Chairman of the Section and Mr. F. A. Richards as Hon. Secretary.

Meetings.—For the first year of the existence of the Western Section nothing but successful meetings and happy times can be recorded. Three sectional meetings have been held during the year, and have been well attended.

November 5th, 1924. Portsmouth.

Paper by Mr. J. V. Summerfield, Portsmouth, entitled: "The Junior Assistant," and an address by Mr. G. P. Jones, B.A., Hon. General Secretary of the Association, on "Activities of the A.A.L., and its Divisions."

February 19th, 1925. Southampton.

Visits to places of interest, and paper by Mr. H. F. Mourant, Southampton, entitled: "Why Novels are read."

May 20th, 1925. Winchester.

Visit to the Cathedral Library and the Cathedral, and paper by Mr. F. A. Richards, on "Qualifications for Librarianship."

Financial Statement.

<i>Receipts.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.
From Treasurer ...	2	0	0	Petty cash items... ..	0	12	6
Rebate from Subscriptions ...	1	5	7	Balance in hand ...	2	13	1
	£3	5	7		£3	5	7

(Signed) JAMES HUTT, *Chairman*
F. A. RICHARDS, *Hon. Secretary.*

OUR LIBRARY.

Conference on Libraries in Wales and Monmouthshire. Aberystwyth, June 4-5, 1925. Report of the proceedings. Published by the National Library of Wales. Paper, 2s., cloth, 3s. 6d.

This conference was the outcome of a suggestion made at the Cardiff Conference of the Library Association, 1922; was convened by the Councils of the National Library of Wales, the University College of Wales, and the Library Association, and was attended by 47 delegates. The object of the very practical programme was to consider the present extent of library provision in Wales and Monmouthshire; how the work of existing libraries can be co-ordinated so as to secure increased efficiency and avoid duplication, and to discuss the main lines of a library policy for the Principality. At the four sessions the topics dealt with were: (1) Libraries under the Public Libraries Acts in urban areas; (2) County libraries—rural library schemes; (3) Institutional libraries—cathedrals, colleges, miners and other institutions, St. Deiniol's

Library, etc., and (4) A review of the results of the conference, resolutions on co-operation between libraries, the special problems of Wales. Special mention is made of the provision of Welsh books and there are fourteen pages devoted to statistics relating to the libraries of Wales and Monmouthshire.

There seems no question as to the success of the Conference in any direction. This is not to be wondered at when we state that the Conference Secretary was Mr. John Ballinger, and that among his most ardent co-operators we note the name of Sir Herbert Lewis! The entire report provides interesting reading of practical value to assistants, and should appeal particularly to our colleagues working in the area under discussion in its pages. H. A. E.

Coventry Public Libraries. (Beasley, Lydia A.). Periodical Publications currently displayed. 67 pp. Price, 8d.

A comprehensive list in three parts: (1) Index to subjects; (2) Class list—Dewey; (3) Alphabetical list, or title index. The "summary of classification" hardly seems necessary, but the list is a very useful one, ably set out, and shows that the particular needs of Coventry are kept well in the foreground in the selection of periodical literature.

Mr. Nowell's frank acknowledgment of the work of a member of his staff is not entirely original, but none the less, we thank him for his courteous thought. The spread of this "credit where credit is due" idea will make for greater interest and therefore greater efficiency on the part of assistants. There are many librarians who may care to make a mental note of this. H. A. E.

Coventry Public Libraries. Index to Subjects: a guide to the books contained in the Coventry Public Libraries. 108 pp. 7-in. \times 5-ins. 1925. Price, 6d.

We are glad to note the appearance of this extremely useful and well-produced subject index. Dewey is the classification in use, but in consequence of alterations and additions having been made to the scheme, a large number of subject headings are used which ordinarily would not appear.

Further, Biographies being classed with the subject practically all these are indexed.

The number of printed lists and catalogues that have been published by the Coventry libraries during the last few years seems to indicate that printed catalogues are not such difficult propositions as we have been led to think.

H. E.

London County Council. Schools and Libraries: an account of the development of library activities in the London Education Service. 8 pp. *illus.* 1925. L.C.C. 6d.

This pamphlet marks an epoch in the history both of London education and of metropolitan libraries. The following words on page one give the key to this epoch: "It is more and more recognised that, as the growing child requires a variety of nourishing food for the body, so it also requires a variety of nourishing food for the mind, and that this can only be supplied by placing at the child's disposal a supply of good books." The idea embodied in this phrase is familiar to librarians, but now the London County Council has endorsed it. Such approval constitutes a valuable recognition of library work with children.

After enumerating the loan and circulating collections provided for scholars and teachers by the London County Council itself, the brochure concludes with a section headed "Co-operation with Public Libraries." Here the administrative history of metropolitan libraries and the main features in the growth of co-operation between them and the educational authorities

are briefly outlined. It is good to read that "valuable assistance has been given to the Council by the public librarians in developing facilities for reading." One resolution of the Conference attended by public librarians in April, 1920, is rather surprising, namely: "That 11 years of age shall be taken as the minimum age for membership (of public libraries) in all cases, but that individual children below that age shall be accepted on the specific recommendation of the head teacher." It is reassuring to read further on that "the great majority of the public libraries have adopted either 10 or a lower age as a minimum." Most children are capable of reading some juvenile books intelligently at the age of 9, and these are not necessarily provided with general reading in the schools, because the school libraries are sometimes confined to the top classes. That the London County Council is in favour of co-operation between schools and libraries may be gauged by this sentence a little further on: "The Council issued a copy of this report (on co-operation) to every senior department with an indication that the attendance of children with their teachers at public libraries would be recognised as school attendances under the provisions of the Code of the Board of Education." Some interesting statistics of London Libraries reveal the fact that the total adult lending issue in 1923-24 was more than double that of 1903-4, and the total juvenile issue was more than trebled in the corresponding period: also that the percentage of fiction read has risen during the last twenty years.

There can be no doubt as to the value of co-operation between teachers and librarians each with their special knowledge, and it is to be hoped that increasing advantage will be taken of the opportunities granted by the London County Council. As this pamphlet reveals, that Body makes a certain provision for the supply of books in all its schools, but both the amount spent on library books out of the "per capita" requisition allowances, and the use made of them when bought depend upon the teachers, for whom library work is an added item in an already full curriculum.

G. R.

Reading with a Purpose. Kellogg (Vernon). Biology. 40 pp.—Carlton (W. N. C.). English Literature. 74 pp.—Vernon (Ambrose W.). Ten pivotal figures of history. 36 pp. Chicago, 1925.

These are the three first volumes of a series of twelve little handbooks issued by the American Library Association under the title of *Reading with a Purpose*. The courses have "been prepared for men and women, and for young people out of school, who wish to know more about" the subjects dealt with. They "comprise a very brief introduction to the subject and a guide to a few of the best books; the books being arranged for consecutive reading." The common faults of efforts of this kind are that they overwhelm the reader with a multitude of titles, or attempt to lead him on a path too steep in the ascent. In other words they have the student in mind, and provide a course for which the ordinary reader has neither time nor inclination (nor, perhaps, capacity). To these may be added that American productions have sometimes, from the cis-Atlantic point of view, smacked too much of *Uncle Sam*. From these faults the present little books are commendably free. The reading-lists are short, indeed, Dr. Kellogg is so rigidly selective that he gives only six books in his list. The books recommended are all such as can be read by the "general reader" with pleasure and profit, the reading being "consecutive" in the chronological sense, rather than in that of progressive difficulty. Most of the books mentioned are well-known, and such as one would expect to find in any English municipal library. These little guides are well printed and tastefully produced, and they deserve a wide welcome in English libraries. Moreover, as we do not do these things for ourselves, we should be grateful to the American Library Association for its energy and enterprise.

C. F. C.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

Ackerley (J. R.). *The Prisoners of War* : a play.

(Chatto & Windus, 5s.)

A powerful but depressing study of the effects of internment on five officers. Only the best of other modern plays equal its sincerity and its intensity of dialogue.

Calderón de la Barca (Pedro). *Six Dramas*. Freely translated by Edward Fitzgerald. (Chatto & Windus, 3/6 and 7/6.)

"He (Calderón) is a wonderful fellow : one of the great men of the world."
—*Edward Fitzgerald*.

Jacobsen (J. P.). *Marie Grubbe* : a lady of the 17th century.

(O.U.P., 11/-)

This novel, although highly praised by Ibsen and Brandes, is probably very little known in England. Those who do read it will find that Knut Hamsun is not the *only* great modern novelist from Scandinavia.

Joad (C. E. M.). *Mind and Matter*.

(Nisbet, 3/6.)

A simple introduction to metaphysics. A perusal of this little volume may perhaps dispel the idea that a metaphysician is a blind man looking in a cellar for a bottle of wine that isn't there.

Murry (J. Middleton). *Keats and Shakespeare* : a study of Keats's poetic life, 1816-1820. (O.U.P., 14/-.)

Orwin (C. S.) and Peel (W. R.). *The Tenure of Agricultural Land*.

"Admirably written, well arranged, compact in form, this little book states from a new point of view an economic problem of increasing urgency and importance."—*Times Literary Supplement*.

Proust (Marcel). *The Guermentes Way*. 2 vols.

(Chatto & Windus, 15/-.)

The fifth and sixth volumes of Proust's colossal novel "*A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*." To the joy of those unable to read French, according to one critic "this translation is the original transferred." If the reader will compare he will see that this is not extravagant praise ; he will also see that those who do not read Proust miss one of the finest intellectual feasts of our time.

Roberts (Morley). *Rachel Marr*.

(Nash and Grayson, 7/6.)

This is a reprint of a fine novel, which, like much of the author's work, has been allowed to remain in the background, despite the praise of discriminating critics.

St. Reyment (Ladislas). *Autumn* : a novel.

(Jarrolds, 7 6.)

The first of four novels, which have been given the collective title of "*The Peasants*." The author has been awarded the Nobel Prize for 1924. The reputation of this epic novel for truth and sincerity, may be gauged by the fact that German officers stationed in Poland were compelled by their Government to read and study it.

G.F.V., and F.S.S.

APPOINTMENTS.

JONES, S. K., Sub-Librarian, Dr. Williams' Library, London, to be Librarian.

*PAGE, Miss P., Senior Assistant, Warrington, to be a Senior Assistant, Wandsworth Public Libraries. Salary, £125; plus £80 3s. bonus.

*ROBERTS, R. H., Deputy Librarian, Walsall, to be a Senior Assistant, Wandsworth Public Libraries. Salary, £125: plus £80 3s. bonus.

*SARGEANT, H., Birmingham Public Libraries, to be senior assistant, Coventry Public Libraries. Salary, £221-260.

*STEVENSON, B. T. W., appointed a senior assistant, Armstrong College Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Matriculated and six certificates of the Library Association. Trained: Armstrong College Library. Formerly student assistant, Armstrong College Library.

TAYLOR, Miss P. M., appointed a senior assistant, Armstrong College Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Matriculated and one certificate of the Library Association: Bibliography. Trained: Armstrong College Library. Formerly student assistant, Armstrong College Library.

*VENTERS, Miss Isabel, second assistant, Beveridge Public Library, Kirkcaldy, to be Librarian Buchhaven and Methil, Fife.

• Member, A. A. L.

NEW MEMBERS.

Miss S. B. Mercy (Bristol).

N. E. Division.—R. Muris (Newcastle).

KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE.
COUNTY LIBRARY.

Senior Woman Assistant. Applicants should be trained and should have had experience in library work. Salary, £120, rising to £150 per annum.

Applications, enclosing two recent testimonials, should be sent to the Director of Education, Springfield, Maidstone, not later than the 19th October, 1925.